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VIET MINH DIGGING TRENCHES TOWARD FRENCH POSITIONS

A French military source in Hanoi told the American consul there that over the past several nights the Viet Minh have been digging trenches toward the French central defense positions at Dien Bien Phu. The enemy is moving forward at a rate of one kilometer a night. Photo reconnaissance shows these trenches are only one kilometer from the French defenses now.

Comment: As enemy trenches move closer to French positions, the Viet Minh correspondingly reduces the area where French fire can most effectively be brought to bear during any frontal assault. Viet Minh forces, however, would also appear to become more vulnerable to air attacks.

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